

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Kerry White, on February 22, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172  
Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)  
Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Bob Brown (R)  
Rep. Virginia Court (D)  
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)  
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. John Fleming (D)  
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)  
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)  
Rep. Mark Noland (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lexi Goble, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 498, 2/17/2017; HB 513, 2/17/2017; HB 540, 2/17/2017; HB 555, 2/17/2017

**HEARING ON HB 555**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:34 Rep. Nancy Ballance (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 555, Terminate Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:06:52 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC); Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)

**Informational Testimony:**

00:11:37 John Tubbs, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

00:13:56 John Carter, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:16:14 Rep. Zach Brown  
00:16:47 Rep. Ballance  
00:17:10 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
00:17:29 Rep. Windy Boy  
00:18:49 John Carter, CSKT  
00:19:44 Rep. Court  
00:20:43 Rep. Ballance  
00:21:02 John Tubbs, DNRC  
00:22:41 Rep. Court  
00:22:52 John Tubbs, DNRC  
00:23:10 Rep. Curdy  
00:24:04 John Carter, CSKT  
00:26:20 Chair White  
00:28:15 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC; AGAI  
00:28:43 Chair White  
00:29:20 Rep. Ballance  
00:29:46 Rep. Fitzgerald  
00:30:31 Rep. Ballance  
00:31:14 Joe Kolman, LSD  
00:31:35 Rep. Fleming  
00:32:21 Rep. Ballance  
00:33:00 Rep. Manzella  
00:33:46 Rep. Court  
00:34:46 John Tubbs, DNRC  
00:37:30 Chair White  
00:40:14 John Carter, CSKT

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:40:54 Rep. Ballance

**HEARING ON HB 513**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:44:22 Rep. Nancy Ballance (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 513, Revise laws related to water compacts.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:46:01 John Tubbs, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
00:46:24 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC); Association of Gallatin  
Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)  
00:46:54 Brian Ohs, Montana Trout Unlimited  
00:47:10 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
00:47:48 Rep. Ballance  
00:47:59 John Carter, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:49:20 Rep. Ballance

**HEARING ON HB 498**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:51:51 Rep. Jon Knokey (R), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 498, Extend sunset provision for unlocking public lands program.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:56:10 Ken McDonald, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)  
00:59:05 Chelsie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
01:00:47 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)  
01:01:17 Shelby Demars, United Property Owners of Montana  
01:01:46 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA); Montana Cattle  
Woman (MCW)  
01:02:24 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
01:03:00 Dan Stusek, Office of the State Audit (OSA)  
01:04:01 Brian Ohs, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:04:39 Chair White  
01:05:39 Ken McDonald, FWP  
01:06:26 Rep. Z. Brown  
01:06:49 Ken McDonald, FWP

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:07:28 Rep. Knokey

**HEARING ON HB 540**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:09:40 Rep. Mark Noland (R), HD 10, opened the hearing on HB 540, Generally revise laws related to aquatic invasive species.

**EXHIBIT(nah39a01)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:18:09 Elena Evans, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

**EXHIBIT(nah39a02)**

01:22:10 Steve Rosso, Flathead Lakers

01:25:20 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF), Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI); Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC); Montana Water Right Coalition (MWRC)

01:27:32 Robin Steinkraus, Flathead Lakers

01:32:01 Shelly Fyant, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

01:38:30 Georgia Smies, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

01:45:57 Jeff Kemp, Swan Lakers

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:47:46 Mike Volesky, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

01:56:32 Ray Beck, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

02:00:06 Gayla Wortman, Cascade Conservation District

02:02:22 David Brooks, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

02:06:08 Clint Peck, Yellowstone Conservation District

02:08:31 Stacy Robinson, Yellowstone Conservation District

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:10:33 Rep. Manzella

02:11:20 Mike Volesky, FWP

02:13:20 Rep. Manzella

02:13:33 Mike Volesky, FWP

02:13:39 Rep. Z. Brown

02:15:45 Ray Beck, DNRC

02:17:02 Rep. Gunderson

02:17:21 Mike Volesky, FWP

02:17:53 Rep. Curdy

02:18:15 Georgia Smies, CSKT

02:22:26 Rep. Curdy

02:25:34 Mike Volesky, FWP

02:29:40 Rep. Curdy

02:29:54 Joe Kolman, Legislative Service Division (LSD)

02:30:14 Rep. Court

02:30:54 Rep. Noland

02:33:04 Rep. Flynn  
02:34:49 Rep. Noland  
02:35:22 Chair White  
02:36:33 Mike Volesky, FWP  
02:38:46 Ray Beck, DNRC  
02:40:33 Chair White  
02:40:39 Rep. Z. Brown  
02:41:09 Rep. Noland  
02:42:20 Rep. Z. Brown  
02:42:49 Rep. Noland  
02:43:16 Chair White

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:43:33 Rep. Noland  
  
02:48:44 Chair White

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:  
02:51:11

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Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nah39aad.pdf](#))